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Letter dated 13 May 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1529 (2004), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the Multinational Interim Force in Haiti.

I should be grateful if the report could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

04-35087 (E) 140504

Annex

Letter dated 12 May 2004 from the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the status report on the Multinational Interim Force in Haiti. This report is submitted in accordance with paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 1529 (2004).

I should be grateful if you would bring this report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) James B. **Cunningham**
Ambassador

Attachment

Status report on the Multinational Interim Force in Haiti

1. The United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 1529 (2004) on 29 February 2004 in response to the deteriorating political, security and humanitarian situation in Haiti. By resolution 1529 (2004) the Council authorized the immediate deployment of the Multinational Interim Force (MIF) for a period of three months to contribute to a secure and stable environment in the capital and elsewhere in the country.

2. The Commander of the Combined Joint Task Force Haiti (as Commander of MIF) submits this 60-day report in accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 1529 (2004).

3. MIF originally focused operations in and around the cities of Port-au-Prince, Gonaïves and Cap-Haïtien to accomplish the tasks set out in paragraph 2 of resolution 1529 (2004). On 24 April the Combined Joint Task Force began operations in Hinche and cities in the southern claw of Haiti in order to increase stability beyond previously patrolled population centres. The following results have been noted since the status report dated 8 April 2004.

Task 1. To contribute to a secure and stable environment to support the constitutional political process

(a) Ongoing MIF assessment indicates that the constitutional political process has remained consistent since an initial dramatic improvement in the days after the current Government of Haiti was established. The Government is still limited in its ability to maintain civil organizations and infrastructure in some isolated cities. Examples include Hinche, Les Cayes and Jérémie.

(b) MIF continues to provide site security to the Primature and the Presidential Palace to ensure the unimpeded function of these critical government facilities.

Task 2. To facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance and humanitarian worker access

(a) All appropriate requests for support through the Civil Military Operations Centre by humanitarian assistance organizations have been fulfilled. MIF operations have contributed to providing an environment in which humanitarian assistance organizations feel safe to operate without overt military protection. However, two recent incidents of harassment on Route 300 between Port-au-Prince and Hinche indicate sporadic lawlessness that will be addressed by MIF in upcoming operations.

(b) MIF collaborates with humanitarian assistance organizations through the Civil Military Operations Centre to distribute assistance in targeted areas. MIF civil affairs teams assess and communicate critical needs within Haitian society to the appropriate humanitarian assistance organization.

(c) The Civil Military Operations Centre also coordinated with the Port-au-Prince port authorities to address systemic problems that routinely delayed humanitarian shipments. The process for clearing relief supplies through the Haitian Customs department has returned to pre-crisis standards.

Task 3. To facilitate the provision of assistance to the Haitian police and Haitian Coast Guard to support public safety and human rights

(a) The MIF maritime component (United States Coast Guard forces attached to MIF) worked with the Haitian Coast Guard to develop a long-term training plan for the Haitian Coast Guard personnel to increase competency in basic seamanship skills, boarding procedures, and boat-handling skills. They also conduct joint maritime patrols with the Haitian Coast Guard and provide assistance in repairing Haitian Coast Guard boats and physical structures. Additional support over time is required to allow the Haitian Coast Guard to develop the ability to operate independently.

(b) MIF forces continue to conduct joint patrols of population centres with the Haitian police. These patrols have directly affected the public's perception of security and normalcy, and have served to increase the experience level of the Haitian police.

(c) MIF, in coordination with the American Embassy, instituted the Department of Defense rewards programme to persuade Haitians to provide information that leads to seizure of weapon caches. This programme supplements previous efforts to seize illegal weapons during joint Haitian police/MIF patrols. All MIF weapon confiscation efforts are intended to support the ability of the Haitian police to ensure public safety, provide force protection to MIF personnel, and improve the overall security situation in Haiti.

4. We continue to work towards facilitating the transfer of authority to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. MIF planners attended the Southern Command Joint Inter-Agency Planning Group Conference on 29 and 30 April 2004 to coordinate transition and redeployment guidance and concepts. MIF planners have also maintained regular contact and communication with United Nations representatives to ensure the synchronization of United Nations and MIF planning efforts. We have requested liaison officers from designated multinational force partner States to further improve planning efforts.

5. Notable progress has continued since the last report in returning portions of the country of Haiti to an acceptable level of stability. Conditions have improved across the board, and MIF operations have allowed market and school activities to return to pre-crisis levels throughout the country. We are expanding MIF presence into the southern claw to verify reconnaissance reports on conditions in that region, and to demonstrate the international community's resolve to continue stable conditions in Haiti.

Task 4. To support establishment of conditions for international and regional organizations, including the United Nations and the Organization of American States, to assist the Haitian people

As reported in the first MIF report in March, thanks to the rapid deployment of the Multinational Interim Force, the staff of international and regional organizations, including OAS and the United Nations, have now been able to return to work in situ and assistance projects have resumed.

Task 5. To coordinate, as needed, with the OAS Special Mission and with the United Nations Special Adviser for Haiti, to prevent further deterioration of the humanitarian situation

As reported in the first MIF report in March, the Multinational Interim Force Commander has met with the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, John Reginald Dumas, and with OAS representatives in order to exchange views on the situation in Haiti and the best means of responding to humanitarian objectives. MIF contributors believe that the coordination of international and regional organizations is crucial to improving the humanitarian situation and maximizing the effectiveness of international assistance. This vital work will continue.